



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region
Forest Health
Arizona Zone Office

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Subject: 2001 Insect and Disease Aerial Detection Surveys, Tonto National Forest

To: Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest

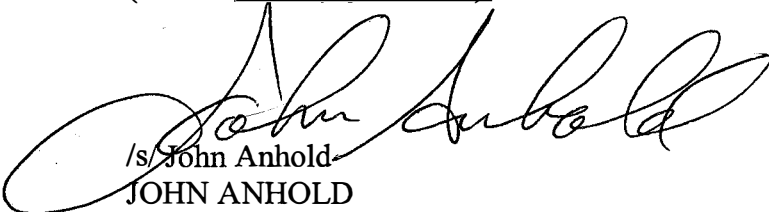
The annual forest insect and disease aerial detection survey was conducted over the Tonto NF August 22-23, 2001, by R3 Forest Health observers. Following is a summary of the results of this survey.

Approximately 23,606 acres of ponderosa pine mortality, caused by western pine beetle and *Ips*, was detected in 2001. This represents a substantial increase since 2000. A significant amount of this mortality is concentrated in proximity of Young, throughout the Sierra Ancha Wilderness, and the Pinal Mountains. We suspect this mortality is, in part, related to the severe drought conditions experienced the past few summers.

Fire-related mortality was detected across the Forest. Trees scorched, but not killed by recent fires are potential sites for future bark beetle activity. These sites will be monitored in the 2002 aerial surveys.

Upon availability, maps depicting conditions detected will be sent to appropriate Forest-level staff and Ranger District personnel. Electronic format copies of the spatial data are being forwarded to Forest GIS staff and are to be made available to Forest and District personnel for any projects to which they may be relevant. Please advise District personnel via this letter of this availability.

Should you have any questions regarding this survey, would like to request spatial data, or need additional information about forest insects and diseases, please feel free to contact Bobbe Fitzgibbon at (928) 556-2072 (email: bfitzgibbon@fs.fed.us) or Steve Dudley at (928) 556-2071 (email: sdudley@fs.fed.us).


/s/ John Anhold
JOHN ANHOLD
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